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Proposed Maximum Residue Limit PMRL2010-59

# Atrazine

*(publié aussi en français)*

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Publications
Pest Management Regulatory Agency
Health Canada
2720 Riverside Drive
A.L. 6604-E2
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0K9

Internet: pmra.publications@hc-sc.gc.ca
healthcanada.gc.ca/pmra
Facsimile: 613-736-3758
Information Service:
1-800-267-6315 or 613-736-3799
pmra.infoserv@hc-sc.gc.ca

Canada

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Under the authority of the *Pest Control Products Act*, Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) has concluded that the addition of new uses on field corn, popcorn and sweet corn to the product label of Primextra II Magnum Agricultural Herbicide, containing technical grade atrazine, is acceptable. The specific uses approved in Canada are detailed on the label of Primextra II Magnum, *Pest Control Products Act* Registration Number 25730.

The evaluation of this atrazine application indicated that the end-use product has merit and value and the human health and environmental risks associated with the new uses are acceptable. Details regarding the registration can be found in the corresponding Evaluation Report available in the Pesticides and Pest Management section of Health Canada's Website, under Public Registry, Pesticide Product Information Database.[1]

Before registering a pesticide for food use in Canada, the PMRA must determine the quantity of residues that are likely to remain in or on the food when the pesticide is used according to label directions and that such residues will not be a concern to human health. This quantity is then legally established as a maximum residue limit (MRL). An MRL applies to the identified raw agricultural food commodity as well as to any processed food product that contains it, except where separate MRLs are specified for the raw agricultural commodity and a processed product made from it.

Consultation on the proposed MRLs for atrazine is being conducted via this document (see Next Steps, the last section of this document).

To comply with Canada's international trade obligations, consultation on the proposed MRLs is also being conducted internationally by notifying the World Trade Organization, as coordinated by the Standards Council of Canada.

The proposed MRLs for atrazine in Canada in or on food are as follows.

**Table 1 Proposed Maximum Residue Limits for Atrazine.**

| Common Name | Residue Definition | MRL (ppm) | Food Commodity |
|---|---|---|---|
| Atrazine | 6-chloro-*N*-ethyl-*N'*-(1-methylethyl)-1,3,5-triazine-2,4-diamine, including the metabolites 1,3,5-triazine-2,4-diamine, 6-chloro-, 1,3,5-triazine-2,4-diamine, 6-chloro-*N*-ethyl- and 1,3,5-triazine-2,4-diamine, 6-chloro-*N*-(1-methylethyl)- | 0.2 | Field corn, popcorn grain, sweet corn kernels plus cob with husks removed |
| | | 0.04 | Eggs; fat, meat and meat by products of cattle, goats, hogs, horses, poultry and sheep; milk |

[1] The relevant report can be accessed by selecting the Applications/New/Historical tab and opening the Evaluation Report found under Application Number 2008-0883.

A complete list of all MRLs established in Canada can be found on the Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides webpage in the Pesticides and Pest Management section of Health Canada's website.

**International Situation and Trade Implications**

MRLs may vary from one country to another for a number of reasons, including differences in pesticide use patterns and the locations of the field crop trials used to generate residue chemistry data. For livestock commodities, differences in MRLs can also be due to different livestock feed items and practices.

Table 2 compares the proposed MRLs for atrazine in Canada with corresponding American tolerances and Codex Alimentarius MRLs.[2] American tolerances are listed in the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations, 40 CFR Part 180, by pesticide. Currently, Codex MRLs have not been established for atrazine on any commodity. A listing of all established Codex MRLs is available on the Codex Alimentarius Pesticide Residues in Food website.

**Table 2 Comparison of Canadian MRLs, American Tolerances and Codex MRLs**

| Food Commodity | Canadian MRL (ppm) | American Tolerance (ppm) | Codex MRL (ppm) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field corn, popcorn grain, sweet corn kernels plus cob with husks removed | 0.2 | 0.2 | No MRL established |
| Fat, meat and meat byproducts of cattle, goats, horses and sheep; milk | 0.04 | 0.02 | No MRL established |
| Eggs; fat, meat and meat byproducts of hogs and poultry | 0.04 | No tolerance established | No MRL established |

**Next Steps**

The PMRA invites the public to submit written comments on the proposed MRLs for atrazine up to 75 days from the date of publication of this document. Please forward your comments to Publications (see the contact information on the cover page of this document). The PMRA will consider all comments received before making a final decision on the proposed MRLs for atrazine and posting a corresponding Established Maximum Residue Limit document in the Pesticides and Pest Management section of Health Canada's website.

[2] The Codex Alimentarius Commission is an international organization under the auspices of the United Nations that develops international food standards, including MRLs.